

**Mount Pleasant
High School
Marching Band 2017**

FALL MARCHING HANDBOOK

Flexibility

Dear 2017 MPHS Marching Band Member,

The following information is designed to serve as a reference for you and your parents concerning the department of the band while we are at competitions and other band functions, your role as a member, and what it means to be a part of this organization. All of the information provided is meant to assist you in making your fall with the MPHS Marching Band as enjoyable as possible.

Please read through the entire booklet carefully. The success of our organization depends on the ability of members, staff, and parents to work as a team. Everyone has a job to do, and everyone counts on one another to make sure those jobs are done. It is important for you to determine exactly how you fit into the team, for *you* will make all the difference.

I hope that this booklet of information will help make your season go smoothly so that you will have the best fall marching season possible.

Mr. Matthew Taton
Director of Bands
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
mphsbanddirector@gmail.com
989-775-2200, ext. 30303

**** **MANDATORY** ****

- All members will have the navy blue MOUNT PLEASANT MARCHING BAND T-shirt. This shirt will be worn under uniforms – when wearing the standard issue uniform – and during all parade and informal functions including the band camp parent performance on August 22nd.
These will be available for purchase from the Instrumental Music Boosters (IMB).



For Rehearsals: Required

- Hat to keep sun off your face and head (must cover the top of your head – including pit percussion)
- Insulated water jug for water (all members, including pit percussion)
- Sunscreen (minimum 15 SPF). You will get sunburn on cloudy days too!
- Music Folio (all winds), Music Notebook (all front ensemble), Coordinate Book (all marchers). These are your essential learning tools. Without them you are a liability on the field!
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BAND CAMP SCHEDULE

Camp will be held **August 14-19, 2017** at **Mount Pleasant High School**. Camp begins on a **MONDAY** and ends on **SATURDAY** evening.

CLOSED CAMPUS !!

Basic Daily Schedule (subject to change):

8:45am	arrive at MPHS band room – stretching, running, etc.
9:00am	basics -visual emphasis
Noon	lunch – students will need to bring a sack lunch each day. No one will leave campus – no exceptions!!
1:00pm	music and guard sectionals
3:00pm	full music ensemble/guard sectionals continue
5:00pm	dinner – IMB will provide dinner for all members/staff
6:15pm	rehearsals continue – full ensemble
8:45pm	rehearsal concludes** - band meeting
9:00pm	students may leave

Daily schedules are subject to change depending on weather issues and need.

Please note that we have a closed campus. No students will be allowed to leave to get lunch or dinner. Parents may visit to watch rehearsals or have lunch or dinner with their child. Parents may also bring lunch to their child if they so desire. For safety and accountability purposes, no student will leave campus during any portion of camp.

** - please have your rides waiting for you. To save time, please pick your child up at the practice field. We will end every rehearsal there unless there is inclement weather.

Our Staff

Mr. Matt Taton	Band Director
Scott Allen	Drill Writer
Ross Taylor	Music arranger
Natalie DeLorenzo	Color Guard (band camp only)
Meghan Dyer	Color Guard
Michael Hamilton	Percussion Caption Head and Arranger
Colin Mudie	Front Ensemble
Will Robinson	Visual Caption h=Head
Brett Bulka	Brass Tech
Jeffery Allerdyce	Woodwind Tech

BEHAVIOR

There has always been something special about being a member of the Mount Pleasant High School Marching Band. Beyond the fact that you will be representing our school, it is a privilege and there are responsibilities to be accepted and lived up to. Much of what you are expected to do will be picked up through adopting the attitude of being a member of the MPHS Marching Band. The following is a brief outline of certain situations and the expected and appropriate behaviors. Please know, you are representing MPHS whether you are in uniform or not.

AT COMPETITIONS/REHEARSAL SITES

You need to remember that although our stay is limited, and we are focused on preparations for competitions, while we are at a school we are guests. It is important that we treat all facilities and property with the utmost respect. The band tends to visit the same show hosts year after year, and we need to continue to maintain good relationships with the schools, band directors, and booster organizations. This includes keeping food and beverages contained in our trailer and bus locations and leaving the facilities in pristine condition regardless if it was in that condition when we arrived. Each member of the band will have a job designated to them by the drum majors and those jobs will aid in our operation throughout the season.

IN UNIFORM

When you are in full or partial uniform of the MPHS Marching Band, the following rules apply:

1. At no time should you eat or drink (except water and clear sports drink) in your uniform. Accidents will occur unexpectedly that may dirty, stain, or permanently damage your uniform.
2. **Running in uniform is strictly prohibited**; it is out of character and shows a lack of respect for the uniform and the program.
3. Do not lean or sit on anything while in uniform unless instructed. In this instance you may sit on your gloves, or bleacher covers. This will prevent exposure to dirty surfaces.
4. Do not **EVER** swear or use obscene language while in uniform.
5. Do not ever polish your instrument or shoes while in uniform. Once again, accidents will occur unexpectedly, and you may end up spilling polish on your uniform.

The MPHS Marching Band has a unique look and image and it is created and upheld by YOU and how you approach the responsibilities involved with being a part of this very special organization. The general rule is, if you have any concerns as to whether you should or should not be doing something – **DO NOT DO IT!** When you are wearing the uniform, you are not looked upon as an individual, but as a member of the MPHS Marching Band. Most people that see you behind the scenes will form their opinions of the **ENTIRE BAND** and **ENTIRE SCHOOL** from their opinions of you and how YOU behave in uniform. This also carries over to when you are wearing your band jacket, or

any other time that you are outwardly representing the band. **We are now a band that travels nationally and we need to show that we belong on that stage!**

ON RETREAT

While the band is on full or partial retreat (awards ceremony) there is no talking or moving regardless if we are in uniform or not. Whether the band wins or not, the reaction is always the same – **none**. The horn sergeants will call you to attention to be recognized, and then you will return to parade rest. Ranks will not be broken until the band has assembled and the final instructions have been given. When it is done, the drum majors or staff will dismiss the band.

AFTER DISMISSAL

Before you do anything after the performance, you must change out of your uniform and put it and all equipment away. You are responsible for the upkeep of your uniform and equipment throughout the summer and fall. If there is any damage to your uniform or equipment, report it immediately to the uniform parent (Mrs. Smith) or Mr. Taton so that we can get it repaired as soon as possible. After you have taken care of your uniform and equipment, you may get food and socialize. We will do everything together as a band during the shows. **Do not go off somewhere on your own or in small groups – it will not be tolerated.**

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE WHILE IN UNIFORM

Boys - Your hair should not be touching the collar of the uniform. If you have longer hair, it must be pinned up. If you have facial hair, please make sure it is trimmed and looks presentable. Nothing is worse than someone looking sloppy in uniform.

Girls – If you have long hair, it should be pinned up and not touching the collar of your uniform. Make up may be worn in a conservative fashion only.

These requirements are by no means a comment on any member's personal appearance, but rather to create a look of uniformity throughout the band.

1. You may not wear any jewelry while in uniform (watches, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, etc.). It is acceptable to wear a religious pendant (i.e., cross, Star of David, etc.) on a chain, as long as it is not visible outside the uniform. Again, the idea is uniformity – not making fashion statements.

2. You must wear the appropriate under garments while in uniform. Even though these items are supplied by you, they are required parts of the uniform. These items include **BLACK** socks (**never white**), and official navy blue band t-shirt.

3. Your uniform has many separate parts and they should be worn in the following manner:

- Your shako (hat) should be worn so that you can fit only two fingers between the brim of the shako and the bridge of your nose, flat on top, and right above your eyes.
- The chin strap should rest under your chin and not hanging loose or *in your mouth*.

4. It is mandatory that your horn and uniform shoes are polished before every performance. Again, nothing is worse than a sloppy look. We will be marching on grass at home football games, certain rehearsals and two competitions. Shoes will get dirty throughout the season.

OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT CONCERNING THE UNIFORM

- The uniform should never be worn “in parts”, hanging open, or in a sloppy fashion. Either it is all the way on or all the way off. The Drum Majors, Horn Sergeants, or staff will notify you as to whether the band is in half uniform (no jackets or shakos) or full uniform.
- After the performance, you must make sure that you change out of your uniform and properly hang it on its hanger BEFORE you do anything else. The pants should be hung neatly on their hanger. Also, do not ever take your plume with you. They are expensive and very fragile.

Above all, be constantly mindful of one important rule – there is a special way to look and to ACT as a member of the MPHS Band, and it is your responsibility to foster this appearance. Remember you are constantly being watched by other band members, community members, and peers. **Their impression of the MPHS Marching Band will be created by what they observe from YOUR behavior both in and out of uniform.**

SCHOOL POLICY

School policy regarding behavior while on trips will be strictly enforced. Coupling and overtly outward behavior will NOT be tolerated either on the bus or while at competitions and performances. This behavior puts our volunteer chaperones and our staff in a very uncomfortable position and forces us to make unpopular decisions. It also puts you in a negative light.

2017 Mt. Pleasant HS Marching Band Schedule

Check the Facebook page “Mt. Pleasant (MI) HS Marching Band (Official)” for the most up to date schedule.

Aug. 14-19	9:00a-9:00p	Band Camp @ MPHS
Aug. 22	5:30-8:30p	Rehearsal
Aug. 23	5:30-8:30p	Rehearsal
Aug. 24	3:15p	*Home Football Game
Aug. 29	5:30-8:30p	Rehearsal
Aug. 31	5:30-8:30p	Rehearsal
Sept. 5	3:15-6:30p	After school practice begins
Sept. 9	9:00a-5:00p	<i>Mini-Camp 1</i>
Sept. 15	3:15	*Home Football Game
Sept. 16	9:00a-5:00p	Mini-Camp 2
Sept. 23	TBD	Lamphere Invitational
Sept. 29	3:15	*Home Football Game
Sept. 30	9:00a-5:00p	Mini-Camp 3
Oct. 6	ALL DAY	Homecoming assemblies
Oct. 6	4:00p	Homecoming Parade/Game
Oct. 7	OFF	Homecoming Activities
Oct. 14	TBD	Belding Invitational
Oct. 20	3:15	*Home Football Game Senior Night
Oct. 21	TBD	Clarkston Invitational
Oct. 28	TBD	Reeths-Puffer Invitational (at Rockford)
Nov 4	Flight III –8:15a	MCBA State Finals
Nov 9-11	1:00p (9/10/17)	Bands of America Grand Nationals, Indianapolis, IN

After School Rehearsals: 3:15 (stretch/run)-6:30

Sept. 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 28, 29

Oct. 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20, 24, 26, 27, 30 (Monday)

Nov. 2, 3, 7, 8 (Wednesday), leave for BOA 11/9

It is important that we have ALL members of the Marching Band present at ALL rehearsals and competitions. We will be practicing from 3:15-6:30 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. We will be off on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please schedule appointments, work, meetings, etc. on our off days.

***Fridays with home football games will be 3:15-5:00, 5:00-6:00 (dinner), 6:30 (warm up), 7:00pm (game). We are usually done by 10:00pm.**

Competition Days always begin with rehearsal followed by a tailgate lunch before leaving for the show site. Departure and arrival home times are usually known 2 weeks before each competition.